

GENERAL VILLAS CRUSHINGLY DEFEATED IN SECOND BATTLE AT CELAYA

MORE DETAILS BY COMMANDER OF THE BRITISH ARMY IN FRANCE

Field Marshal Sir John French Continues Report of Operations Against German Invaders in Western Zone.

FIERCE ATTACK TO AID RUSSIAN CAMPAIGN

Also Necessary to Give English Forces Something to Do, After Long Wait in the Trenches, for Moral Effect.

London, April 15.—Field Marshal Sir John French, in continuing his report on operations of the British expeditionary force, writes:

"During the month of February, I arranged with General Foch to render the Ninth French corps, holding the trenches to my left, some much needed rest, sending the three divisions of the British cavalry corps to hold a portion of the French trenches—each division for a period of ten days alternately.

"It was very gratifying to me to note once again in this campaign the eager readiness which the cavalry displayed to undertake a role which does not properly belong to them, in order to support and assist their French comrades."

Referring to Neuve Chapelle and the considerations leading up to this, the field marshal writes:

"About the end of February many vital considerations induced me to believe that a vigorous offensive movement by the troops under my command should be planned and carried out at the earliest possible moment. Among the most important reasons which convinced me of this necessity were: The general aspect of the allied situation throughout Europe and particularly the marked success of the Russian army in repelling the violent onslaughts of Marshal von Hindenburg; the apparent weakening of the enemy on my front, and the necessity for assisting our Russian ally to the utmost by holding as many hostile troops as possible in the western theater; the efforts to this end which were being made by the French forces at Arras and in Champagne, and—perhaps the most weighty consideration of all, the feeling among the British troops at that point, and the establishment of our line as far forward as possible to the east of that place.

"The object, nature and scope of the attack and the instructions governing the conduct of the operations were communicated by me to Sir Douglas Haig in a secret memorandum dated February 19."

Opening of Battle.

General French after describing the main topographical features and showing how the Germans had established a strong post with numerous machine guns among the big haystacks, behind walls and in the orchards which flanked the approaches to the village, proceeds:

"The battle opened at 7:30 o'clock by a powerful bombardment of the enemy's position in Neuve Chapelle. The artillery bombardment was well prepared and was most effective, except on the extreme northern portion of the front of attack.

"At 8:05 o'clock, the 23rd and 25th brigades of the eighth division assaulted the German trenches on the north-west of the village. At the same hour the Garhwal brigade of the Meerut (British India) division, which occupied a position to the south of Neuve Chapelle, assaulted the German trenches in its front. The Garhwal brigade and the 25th brigade carried the enemy's lines of entrenchment, where the wire entanglements had been almost entirely swept away by our shrapnel fire.

Entanglements Intervened.

"The 23rd brigade, however, on the northeast was held up by wire entanglements which were not sufficiently cut. At 8:10 o'clock the artillery was turned on Neuve Chapelle and at 8:25 o'clock the 23rd brigade and the Garhwal brigades pushed on eastward and northward, respectively, and succeeded in getting a footing in the village. The 23rd brigade was still held up in front of the enemy's wire entanglements and could not progress. Heavy losses were suffered, especially in the Middlesex regiment and the Scottish rifles.

"The progress, however, of the 25th brigade into Neuve Chapelle immediately to the south of the 23rd brigade had the effect of turning the southern flank of the enemy's defense in front of the 23rd brigade.

"This fact, combined with powerful artillery support, enabled the 23rd brigade to get forward between 10 and 11 a. m., and by 11 o'clock the whole village of Neuve Chapelle and the roads leading northward and southward from the eastern end of that village were in our hands.

"During this time our artillery completely cut off the village and surrounding country from any German reinforcements which could be thrown into the fight to restore the situation by means of a certain abeyant fire. Prisoners subsequently reported that all attempts at reinforcing the front were checked. Steps were at once taken to consolidate the positions won.

"Considerable delay occurred after the capture of the Neuve Chapelle position. The infantry was greatly disconcerted by the violent nature of the attack and its passage through the enemy's trenches and the buildings of the village. It was necessary to get the units to some extent together before pushing on. The telephone communication being cut by the enemy's fire rendered communication between the front and the rear most difficult. The fact of the left of the Twenty-third brigade having been held up had kept back the Eighth division and had involved a portion of the Twenty-fifth brigade in fighting to the north out of its proper position. An orchard held by the enemy north of Neuve Chapelle also threatened the flank of an advance toward the Aubers bridge.

Resistance Paralyzed.

"I am of the opinion that this delay would not have occurred, had the clearly expressed order of the general commanding the first army been carefully observed.

"The difficulties above enumerated might have been overcome earlier in the day if the general officer commanding the fourth corps had been able to bring his reserve troops more speedily into action. As it was, a further advance did not commence until before 3:30 p. m. The Twenty-first brigade was able to form in the open on the left without a shot being fired at it, thus showing that at the time, the enemy's resistance had been paralyzed.

"The brigade pushed forward in the direction of Moulin-Du-Pietre. At first it made good progress, but was subsequently held up by machine gun fire from houses and from a defended trench. The line of the German entrenchments opposite the height of the Twenty-second brigade.

"Further to the south the Twenty-fourth brigade, which had been directed on Pietre, was similarly held up by machine gun fire from a defended trench. On the right of the Twenty-fourth, on the right of the Twenty-fifth brigade, was held up by machine guns, from a bridge held by the Germans over the Bois-Lux-Laves, to the northwest of Bois-Lux-Laves.

"While two brigades of the Meerut division were establishing themselves on a new line, the Dohra Dun brigade, supported by the Jullundur brigade of the Lahore division moved to the attack of the Bois-Du-Biez but were held up on the line of the river Les Laves, a German post at the bridge which entangled them and brought them to a standstill.

"The defended bridge over the river Les Laves and its neighborhood immediately assumed considerable importance. While the artillery fire was brought to bear as far as circumstances would permit on this point, General Sir Douglas Haig directed the first corps to dispatch one or more battalions to the aid of the bridge.

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Weather Imposed Drawback.

"In a former dispatch I commented upon the drawbacks which the winter weather in this climate imposes upon a vigorous offensive. Early in March these difficulties became greatly lessened by the drying up of the country and by spells of brighter weather.

"I do not propose in this dispatch to enter at length into the considerations which actuated me in deciding upon the plan, time and place of my attack. As mentioned above, the main attack was carried out by units of the first army, supported by troops of the second army and the general reserve. The object of the main attack was to be the capture of the village of Neuve Chapelle, and the enemy's position at that point, and the establishment of our line as far forward as possible to the east of that place.

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VERA CRUZ, April 15.—"Five thousand of the enemy dead were counted during the movement northward from Celaya. Six thousand prisoners and forty field pieces were captured."

This is General Obregon's summary of the result of the fighting about Celaya, where he is reported today to have gained a decisive victory over the forces of General Villa.

The ringing of church bells and the parading of soldiers and citizens conveyed the news of the reported Carranza victory to the public.

TOLL OF EIGHT LIVES IS TAKEN WHEN RESERVOIR DAM GIVES WAY

Floods Sweep Town of St. Johns, Ariz., and Hundreds of Families Are Placed in Imminent Danger.

NO WARNING IS GIVEN OF WATER'S APPROACH

Many Are Missing and Death List May Be Greatly Increased When Final Returns of Disaster Are in.

St. Johns, Ariz., April 15.—Shortly before midnight last night the Lyman reservoir dam, located fifteen miles above this place, gave way and the waters flooded the intervening country, sweeping away everything that lay in the way. The water, which was practically without warning, according to reports received from St. Johns.

The flood is greater than that of 1905, which swept away the predecessor of the Lyman dam. The dam which went out there today was built two years ago and many believe that its collapse was due to the weight of water was due to the fact that it had not had time to set properly.

Mr. and Mrs. Palmer, parents of the children drowned, were at a dance in St. Johns when the dam broke. They had left the children in charge of a Mexican woman who was drowned with them.

Prisoners Would Pay for Victory.

Reno, April 15 (12:40 p. m., via Paris 2:15 p. m.)—A number of French bishops and priests came to Rome today to consult with the Holy See concerning the prayers for peace written by Pope Benedict for use in Roman Catholic churches the world over next month. The clergy, however, said that the Roman Catholics of France, including the clergy, while subscribing to the pope's wishes, decided to embody in the prayers a petition for the victory of their country in the war.

GERALD, LOUISE and ROSS PALMER, infant children of Mr. and Mrs. Ellis Palmer.

MRS. JOSE SAVEDRA, JR., and infant child.

MRS. VIOLET RAY, son and daughter.

The last three mentioned had recently come here from Montezuma, Colo. The Palmer children were grandchildren of St. Johns, and the SAVEDRA and RAY families were residents of the town in 1905.

People Flee to Hills.

The water is due to reach Woodruff and Holbrook tonight, and is sure to do great damage when it does. The people of both towns have fled to the hills, and their belongings are in anticipation of the approach of the flood.

The dam was the joint property of the people of St. Johns and a party of Denver capitalists headed by John S. Church. The flood also broke the Ullah and Merced dams, and other reservoirs on the river below here. The direct property loss in Apache county will approximate \$200,000, while there is a property investment of half a million dollars in and about St. Johns that will be made worthless unless the dam is rebuilt.

The American population of St. Johns is composed largely of Mormon farmers. The dam was of dirt and rock and contained no cement core. It was considered entirely safe until about two years ago, but was attended by no loss of life.

The reservoir will undoubtedly be rebuilt, but with a cement wall inside.

BURROWING GOPHERS ARE CAUSE OF BREAK

Holbrook, Ariz., April 15.—Torrents from the melting snows of the White mountains overhanging the town of St. Johns, last night and today, drowned eight persons, damaged property to the extent of about a half million dollars and left more than 30,000 acres of an irrigation project to the extent of dry farming until new dams are built.

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Obregon Claims Complete Victory Over Villa Army

Washington, April 15.—Advices to the Carranza agency late tonight from Vera Cruz said General Obregon had reported complete victory over the Villa army in the battle near Celaya, which began the day before yesterday and ended at 2 p. m. today. Obregon claimed to have taken 2,500 prisoners and fourteen cannons. He gave no details, but said he was pursuing the enemy.

VILLA ARTILLERY IN HANDS OF OBREGON

Brownsville, Tex., April 15.—The Carranza consulate here tonight gave out a telegram dated Vera Cruz claiming that General Villa was defeated today north of Celaya. The message said all Villa artillery north of Celaya was captured.

swirling currents at threatened points. The snowfall in the White mountains recently has been the heaviest known in years and the owners of the dam, Denver capitalists, had been enlarging the dam to meet the pressure of the expected flood. The torrents that tumbled down the mountains were too much for the sixty-foot earthen dyke, and it gave way practically without warning, according to reports received from St. Johns.

The flood is greater than that of 1905, which swept away the predecessor of the Lyman dam. The dam which went out there today was built two years ago and many believe that its collapse was due to the weight of water was due to the fact that it had not had time to set properly.

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HUERTA'S STRONG STATEMENT TO AMERICAN PRESS IN OWN DEFENSE

Former Dictator Denies Having Any Hand in Assassination of President Francisco Madero.

DEPLORES CONDITION OF MEXICAN ANARCHY

Country Sure to Be Saved by Its Own People; Says Washington Does Not Understand Conditions.

New York, April 15.—Vehemently asserting that he had nothing to do with the death of Francisco Madero, General Huerta, former provisional president of Mexico, issued a long statement tonight setting forth what he termed his side of the Mexican question. General Huerta declared that he knew who was responsible for Madero's death, but that he was keeping it as a "professional secret."

General Huerta's statement reviewed the history of the Madero revolution, his own accession to the provisional presidency and concluded with the assertion that "any country cannot be governed by a dozen million men, women and children would have to be killed before Mexico could submit to an invader, he asserted.

Washington Was Unfair to Mexico.

The heads of the Washington administration, he declared, had not been fair to Mexico, had been misled by false statements, and if they had been in Mexico for thirty days, "they would have changed their theoretical, erroneous ideas." Had it not been for the embargo on the exportation of arms from this country, General Huerta indicated that, his army would have prevailed over those opposed to it.

The former provisional president reiterated the assertion which he made when he left Mexico last year, that he had resigned from his post only because he hoped to bring peace to his country.

Anarchy Too Soft a Word.

He pointed out that in the eight months elapsed since that date the situation in Mexico had become "too bad for me to analyze deeply."

"Anarchy is too soft a word to call it," he said.

"Mexico would eventually be saved, but by a Mexican. Who that would be he did not know.

General Huerta declined to respond to questions, to give any inkling as to his future movements. He denied the report that he would go to San Antonio, Texas, or any other point near the Mexican border.

Madero's Assassination.

"That is a professional secret. Lawyers have secrets, doctors have secrets—I am a soldier—why should I not have a secret? It is not through friendship for any one that I am withholding the information. It is a professional secret. The time will soon come when my name will be vindicated and, as General Lee said of General Jackson, the world will say of me that I stood like a stone."

Not Responsible for Murder.

General Huerta straightened up, his eyes flashed, and bringing his clenched fists against his breast he replied:

"No! I swear it. I was in no way responsible for his death. He was one of the big torturers of my life. I am sorry I have kept the secret. Although I am of a different race than you, gentlemen, I am a man."

General Huerta's signed statement was in part as follows:

"After fifteen months of Madero's ill administration of public affairs, a portion of the patriotic Mexican army, who were humiliated and maltreated by Mr. Madero, revolted and took possession of the government of the city of Mexico and with blood. The situation became intolerable.

"The foreign diplomatic representatives asked Mr. Madero to resign. He did not want to accede to their wishes. Then some heads of the army, incited by our senators, to put an end to that anguished situation, placed Mr. Madero under arrest.

"Our congress and our senate and our supreme court of justice, complying with all the requisites of the constitution of our country, named me as the constitutional president of the United States of Mexico, considering me as the man for the job.

"Mr. Madero, while being conducted

ed to the penitentiary, died an unnatural death. In the opinion of some of the public in this country, I am blamed as having taken a part in executing him. I never have tried to shift any responsibilities, and anything I ever did was done openly. I am man enough to stand by what I do. I know I am not to blame for the death of Mr. Madero. Time and history will do me justice.

Protected Life and Property.

"Far be it from my mind to make a eulogy of my own administration. But I must say that during my administration all the law-abiding citizens of my republic, as well as all the foreigners resident there until the very last moment of my command, received guarantees and their homes, their lives and their properties were fully protected.

"I appeal to the testimony of the Spanish, German, French and English colonies, and particularly to the important American colony in Mexico. They will do me justice."

"No one can make a selfish foreigner who suffered, directly or indirectly, from my government, say loss of life or interests. I make special mention of the American colony, as thousands of the United States citizens residing in Mexico then are at present in these United States of America."

Americans His Friends.

"During the seventeen months that I was president of Mexico, I had the good fortune to enjoy the confidence and moral support of the whole American colony resident there, including United States Ambassador Henry Lane Wilson and Mr. Nelson O'Shaughnessy, charge d'affaires, both of whom were my personal friends, as well as a great many other American residents there.

"It was very painful to see numerous American families break up their homes, abandon their business and leave our country by the advice of your government. Not being able to evade the exodus, my government took special care of the Americans. Special trains were placed at their disposal and armed forces accompanied the trains to the seaports.

"Thousands of men, women and children can verify this statement."

Horrible Crimes Perpetrated.

"Unfortunately and for our shame, numerous crimes have been committed against foreigners on Mexico soil during the last four years and a half. Englishmen were cowardly assassinated, more than 300 Chinamen were brutally slaughtered in Torreon; German seamen were brutally violated in Cordoba; Spaniards were butchered in Atencingo and other places; foreign and native ministers of the church were shamelessly mistreated, but the crimes were committed before or after my time and by rebels in rebellion I did not control. These are the results of the anarchical propensities of Madero and his followers."

Public Opinion Misguided.

"I have always had and have proved my admiration and respect for the American people. I must say periodically and public opinion in the United States were for the last few years diverted from the right path on the Mexican question. I have always tried to be fair in my judgment."

"The heads of your administration were not fair to Mexico, but I believe they were misled by false statements. Besides, there is a difference between theory and facts. If your administrators had only been in Mexico for thirty days they would have changed their theoretical, erroneous ideas."

"But I would rather not discuss this subject too deeply. It is a discourtesy, you know, for a foreigner to criticize heads of a nation whose hospitality he enjoys."

American Press Misinformed.

"I had honest blood boils when I think of the unfortunate conditions existing in my poor country, and when I think that a good, clean press like the American is led by false and artificial tricks to defend a cause which is nothing more than one of vandalism and anarchy."

"But, never mind, I have hopes."

(Continued on Page Five)

THREE CARDINALS IN CELEBRATION AT UNIVERSITY

Pope Benedict Sends Letter to Church Prelates on the Twenty-fifth Anniversary of Educational Institution.

Washington, April 15.—Three American cardinals and the largest attendance of the Catholic hierarchy ever gathered in this country received today the first letter of Pope Benedict XV to the United States of the celebration of the 25th anniversary of the Catholic university of America. Catholic educational institutions throughout the country were represented.

The heads of the Catholic church in America, Cardinals Gibbons, of Baltimore; Farley of New York and O'Connell of Boston, were the guests of honor through the day's ceremonies.

Honorary degrees were conferred upon the following:

Doctor of Laws—Nicholas Charles Burke and Charles Joseph Bonaparte, Baltimore; Lawrence Francis Flick, Walter George Smith and Ernest L. Place, Philadelphia; Garrett William McKinney, San Francisco; Thomas Maurice Mulry and John Maurice Mulry, New York; Hannis Taylor, Washington, D. C.

Doctors of Letters—Charles George Herbermann, Fred Courtland Penfield and James Joseph Walsh, New York. The anniversary celebration was concluded at a dinner of the Catholic university annual tonight.

VESSEL CONSIGNED TO NETHERLANDS GOVERNMENT IS SENT TO BOTTOM

Desperate Fighting in Carpathian Passes, With Conflicting Reports of Results, Features News From East.

FRENCH OFFENSIVE IS ENERGETICALLY PRESSED

Diplomatic Rumors Involving Italy and Great Britain's Apology to Chile Hold Interest of London.

London, April 15 (6:30 p. m.)—Although it is not yet certain that a German submarine boat was responsible for the sending to the bottom of the Dutch steamer Katwyk, off the North Hinder lightship, last night, the sinking of the vessel has aroused the indignation of the Dutch people, as evidenced by editorials of newspapers in Holland.

The Katwyk, which was loaded with grain from Baltimore consigned to the Dutch government, is reported to have been lying at anchor at the time of the explosion, and to have been flying the Dutch flag. The Dutch newspapers insist, therefore, that no mistake could have been made, and that if a German submarine actually torpedoed the steamer, "we must expect that the German government will, without loss of time, be made responsible for this severe violation of the rights of neutral powers."

Hollanders Become Enraged.

The fact that the Dutch government was directly involved in the sinking of the steamer came immediately on top of the announcement that four Dutch trawlers had been seized by the Germans and taken to Zebrugge, apparently heightening the feelings of the Hollanders.

The Katwyk incident and many rumors of diplomatic movements in Italy and the near east seemingly had made the people of England almost forget last night's Zeppelin raid over Northumberland county and the fighting on the continent.

Next in interest to the sinking of the Katwyk was the publication of a "white paper" showing that Great Britain acknowledged that British cruisers had sunk the German cruiser Dresden in Chilean territorial waters and had offered an apology for the action of her squadron.

Severe Fighting Continues.

As far as fighting is concerned the battles in the Carpathians and in the Wever are the only ones of any importance. The Russians, although now farced by very much larger forces than they were at the beginning of the battle three months ago, are said to be continuing their efforts to force the Austro-German armies out of the Carpathians and open the way to Hungary. Having successfully taken the Carpathian passes they are bending their energies on an attempt to capture the Usok pass and the height to the northeast of that break in the mountains.

Conflicting Reports.

Petroleum pipelines that the Russians are making steady progress despite the efforts of the Austro-Germans to outflank them; but the Austrians insist that the recent fighting has been in their favor and that they have captured another important height northwest of Usok pass.

In the Wever, the French apparently have revived their offensive and at several points claim to have added materially to the ground previously gained which would bring them a step nearer their main object—the removal of the German wedge which binds their line back toward St. Mihiel.

In the Argonne, in Alsace and in the region of the Somme, the French declare they also have made some progress, but this is in direct contradiction of the Berlin official report, which says that all the French attacks were repulsed.

HOLLAND STEAMER SUNK BY SUBMARINE

London, April 15 (6:44 p. m.)—The Netherlands steamer Katwyk, from Baltimore to Rotterdam, was torpedoed yesterday evening while anchored seven miles to the west of North Hinder lightship in the North sea. The crew of twenty-three men was saved and taken aboard the lightship.

A dispatch to Reuters from Flushing reports the arrival there of the crew of the Katwyk. The men say that while the night watch was being changed a severe shock was felt and the ship began to take in water. As the steamer was sinking the crew took to the boats and while rowing away saw the periscope of a submarine which quickly disappeared.

Reuters's Amsterdam correspondent says the Katwyk had been lying at anchor for 15 minutes when she was torpedoed on the port side. The correspondent says a message received from the Hook of Holland declares that all the ship's lights were burning at the time of the attack. After the torpedo struck, the Katwyk caught fire and only the ship's papers could be saved.

The Amsterdam Telegraph, commenting on the occurrence, says: "We must expect that the German

WEATHER FORECAST.

Washington, April 15.—New Mexico: Local showers Friday and probably Saturday.